

2. **Treaty with the Indians at Lancaster.**—The settlements on the borders of Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland, were rapidly extending to the westward and thus encroaching upon the lands of the Indians; lands, which, as we have seen, were claimed by the Six Nations. That matters might be satisfactorily adjusted the Colonies named secured a meeting of the chiefs with the commissioners, those on the part of Virginia being Thomas Lee and William Beverly. The negotiations began June 22d, 1744, and continued until July 4th ensuing, the place of meeting being Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A peace was concluded and the region lying between the Alleghanies and the Ohio was ceded to the English, the consideration being £400. Thus the title to what is now West Virginia passed for the time being from the Six Nations and vested in the English King.

3. **The Fairfax Land Grant.**—What is known as the "Fairfax Land Grant" was an important factor in the early settlement of West Virginia. In the twenty-first year of the reign of King Charles II. (1681), a grant was made to Lord Hopton and others, of what was known as the Northern Neck of Virginia. The proprietors sold it to Lord



THOMAS, LORD CULPEPER.*

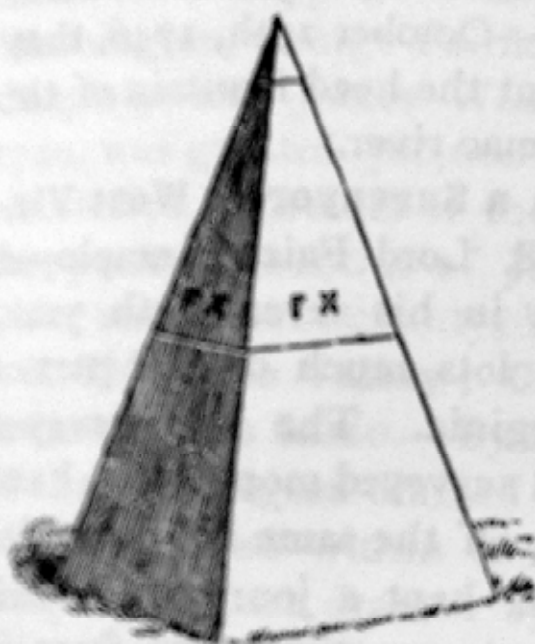
*Thomas, Lord Culpeper, Baron of Thorsway, was appointed Governor of Virginia by King Charles II., July 2, 1673, but did not

Culpeper to whom it was confirmed in the fourth year of King James II. (1688). This immense estate embraced all of the territory lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers in Virginia, and all of the present counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, Mineral and a part of Tucker, in West Virginia. The grant descended from Lord Culpeper to his only daughter, Catharine, who married Thomas, fifth Lord Fairfax, from whom the estate descended to their eldest son, Thomas, who became the sixth Lord Fairfax.

4. Efforts to Fix the Boundary of the Fairfax Estate.—In 1733, Lord Fairfax petitioned the King, asking that commissioners be appointed to determine the bounds of his patent. The request was heard with favor and the commissioners, having been appointed, assembled at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1734, and the journey to survey the Potomac and find its head spring, or first fountain, began from that place. On November 18th, the party was on the Potomac river, four miles above the mouth of the Shenandoah river, now in Jefferson county, West Virginia. This was the first surveying party ever sent into this State.

arrived in the Colony until 1680, when he brought with him an act for the "free and general pardon, indemnity and oblivion" for all participants in "Bacon's Rebellion." He is described as an able but crafty and covetous man. In 1669, he had a half interest with the Earl of Arlington, in the grant for the "Northern Neck," which embraced all of what was afterwards known as the Fairfax Estate. He purchased Arlington's interest and thus became sole proprietor, and his daughter, Catharine, his sole heiress. Culpeper was removed from office, the charges against him being heard by a jury in Wiltshire County, England. He died in 1719.

5. **The Planting of the Fairfax Stone.**—At the mouth of the South Branch a halt was made, but the North Branch was decided to be the true continuation of



THE FAIRFAX STONE.*

the Potomac and onward along its winding course proceeded the surveyors, chainmen, axemen and attendants, until the first fountain of the North Branch was reached. Then the party returned and the surveyors made a map and sent it with their report to England. This the king did not approve until April 1745, in which year Lord Fair-

fax came to Virginia never more to return to England. Other commissioners were appointed to mark

*The Fairfax Stone, which was the first monument erected to mark ownership in land in this State, had a square base, each side of which was two feet and six inches; it was constructed of sand-stone, and was built up as shown to a point or apex four feet and six inches from the base. The base was on a level with the surface, and the stones forming the pyramid were three in number, two of which were each two feet high, and the cap-piece or apex, six inches high, all joined. There was no date, but on the middle stone, on each of the four sides were the letters "F X". The joints were cemented and the cutting perfectly true. This stone, one of the most interesting historical monuments in the United States, was destroyed, in December, 1884, by some unknown person, but it is believed to have been the work of some thoughtless boys. The Davis Coal and Coke Company had another stone cut and put in its place, as nearly similar to the original as possible.

the line between the first fountains of the two rivers—the Potomac and the Rappahannock. The journey to the source of the Potomac as determined by the previous surveyors, began on September 18th, and twenty-nine days later—October 17th, 1746, they placed the Fairfax Stone at the head fountain of the North Branch of the Potomac river.

6. George Washington a Surveyor in West Virginia.—In March, 1747-8, Lord Fairfax employed George Washington, then in his seventeenth year, to survey and lay off into lots much of that part of his estate in West Virginia. The boy surveyor crossed the mountains and surveyed more than a hundred tracts of land, laying off the same in quantities to suit the purchasers. He kept a journal in which he made a record of daily transactions, and from it we learn that on Friday, March 25th, 1748, he swam his horse across the Potomac at the mouth of Patterson's creek, now in Mineral county, up which he proceeded to the house of Abram Johnston, where he spent the night, and the next day, visited the home of Samuel Hedges, who was one of the king's Justices of the Peace for Frederick county. Thus the leader of the armies of the Revolution and the first President of the United States surveyed the first farms in West Virginia.

7. The "Ohio Company."—Many cabin homes dotted the country along the upper waters of the Potomac, but no one had yet found a habitation west of the mountains. But now an effort was to be made to settle the region toward the Ohio river. In 1748, a corporation known as the "Ohio Company," was

formed. It was composed of John Hanbury, a merchant of London, Thomas Lee, Thomas Nelson, William Thornton, William Nimms, Daniel Cresap, Michael Cresap, Lawrence Washington, Augustus Washington, George Fairfax, Jacob Giles, Nathaniel Chapman and James Woodrop. The company in 1749, was granted 500,000 acres of land on the Ohio situated on both sides of the river, principally within the present counties of Jefferson and Columbiana, Ohio, and Brooke county, West Virginia.

8. The Ohio Valley; Claims of England and France to the Same.—By the Ohio Valley is meant all that vast region drained by the Ohio river and its tributaries, and within it lay all of West Virginia except that part drained by the Potomac. England claimed all of the great Valley, and based her claim upon the discoveries of the Cabots on the Atlantic coast, which, she asserted, extended her possessions from sea to sea. Then, too, had not the English purchased a large part of the territory from the Indians at the treaty of Lancaster? France occupied all Canada, and rested her claim to the Ohio Valley upon the discoveries of La Salle, who, as we have seen, descended the Ohio river in 1669-70, and also upon that of Marquette, who was at the mouth of the Ohio in 1680. A common law of nations gave to the country discovering the mouth of a river all the country drained by it. Hence, France could not understand by what authority England granted lands on the Ohio river, or why that kingdom undertook to purchase the same from the Indians.

9. French Expedition to the Ohio Valley.—France resolved to perfect her title to the Ohio Valley by formal possession, and determined to place along that river, a number of leaden plates bearing inscriptions asserting her claims to the lands on both sides of that stream, even to the source of its tributaries. The command of the expedition sent out to deposit these plates was given to Captain Bienville de Celoron. It consisted of eight subaltern officers, six cadets, an armorer, twenty soldiers, one hundred and eighty Canadians, fifty-five Indians, and Father Bonnecamps, who styled himself the "Jesuite Mathematicien."

10. The Journey.—The expedition left La Chine, near Montreal, Canada, on June 15th, 1749, and on July 29th reached the Allegheny river at the mouth of Conewango creek. Celoron was provided with at least six leaden plates, each of which was about eleven inches long, seven and a half inches wide, and a quarter of an inch in thickness. The first plate was buried on the south bank of the Allegheny river, opposite the mouth of the Conewango. Then the journey was continued, and on August 3d the second plate was buried near the mouth of French creek.

11. The Voyage Down the Ohio.—The voyage down the Ohio brought the little fleet to the mouth of Whooling creek, now almost the center of the city of that name, and here, August 13th, the third plate was buried. Two days and nights passed, and the voyagers went on shore at the mouth of the Muskingum, the site of the present city of Marietta,

Ohio. Here the fourth plate was deposited. On the morning of August 18, a rain-storm drove the canoes



THE FRENCH EXPEDITION DESCENDING THE OHIO.

ashore at the mouth of the Great Kanawha, and here on that day the fifth plate was buried.* The entry

*This plate was found in 1846, and removed from the spot in which it had lain for sixty-seven years. The following is the inscription which it bears:

"In the year 1763, reign of Louis XV., King of France, we, Colonel, commandant of a detachment sent by Monsieur the Mar-

made in Celoron's journal here, translated, reads as follows: "Buried at the foot of an elm, on the south bank of the Ohio and on the east bank of the Chinondaista, the 18th day of August, 1749."

12. The Expedition Homeward Bound.—Heavy rains detained the detachment at the mouth of the Great Kanawha for two days. Leaving there on August 20th, the voyage down the Ohio was continued. For several days their canoes floated on beneath the dark shades of the forest on the river's brink. On the 30th, the Great North Bend of the Ohio was passed, and they reached the mouth of the Great Miami, where, on the 31st, the sixth and last plate was buried. From here the homeward march was begun, and on November 10th they reached Montreal, having accomplished a journey of more than six hundred leagues.

13. The Loyal and the Greenbrier Companies.—The English disregarded the claims of the French, and the Virginia authorities continued to issue land grants to be located in the Ohio Valley. July 12th, 1749, the Governor and Council issued a grant to

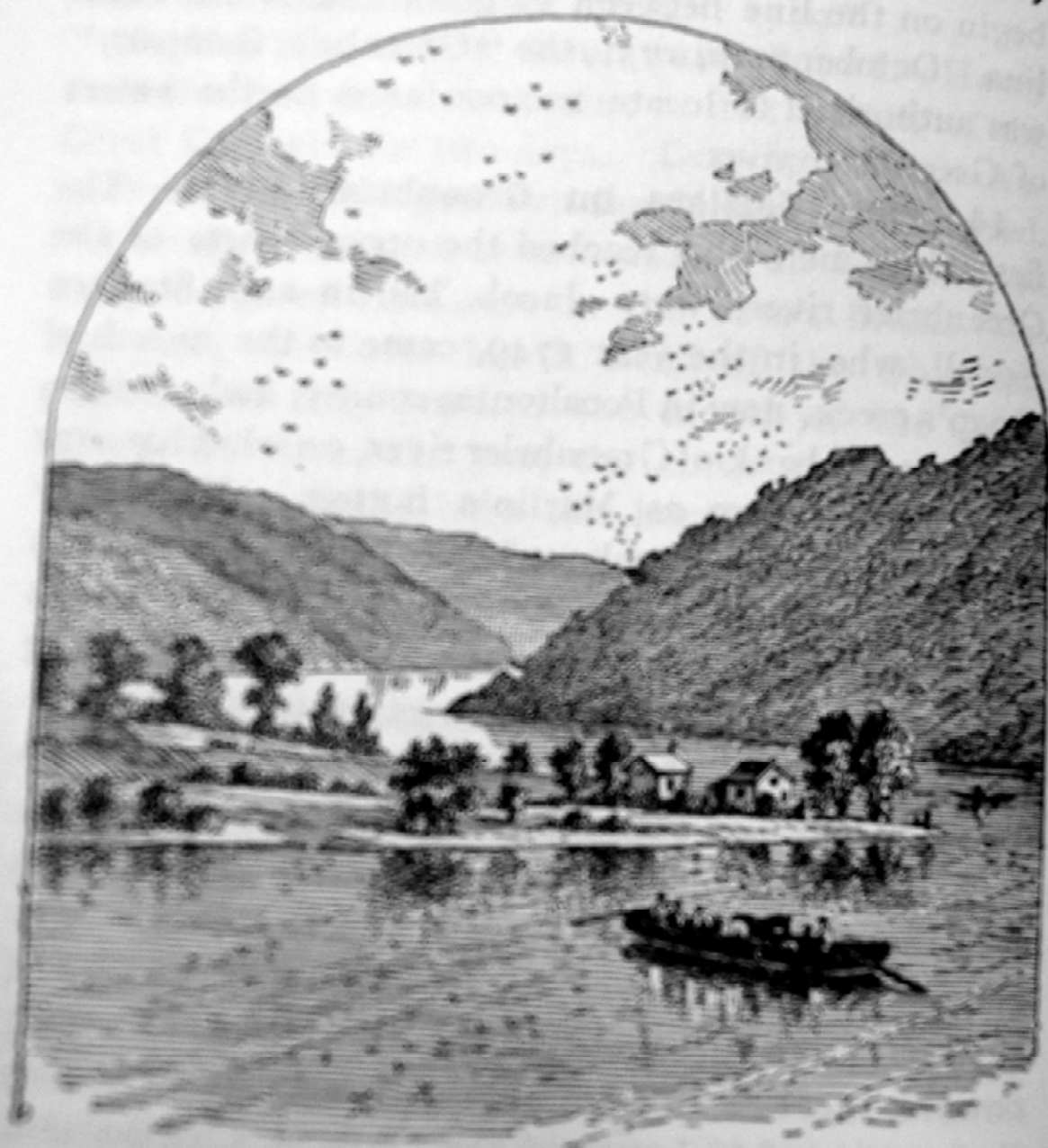
gué de la Collisniere, Commandant General of New France, to re-establish tranquillity in some Indian villages in these cantons, have buried this plate at the mouth of the Chinodashichetha the 18th August, near the river Ohio, otherwise "Beautiful River," as a monument of renewal of possession which we have taken of the said river Ohio, and of all those which fall into it, and of all the lands on both sides as far as the sources of said rivers; the same as were enjoyed, or ought to have been enjoyed, by the preceding Kings of France, and that they have maintained it by their arms and by treaties, especially by those of Ryeck, Utrecht, and Aix-la-Chapelle."

John Lewis, Thomas Walker and others, under the corporate name of the "Loyal Company," for 800,000 acres of land, the boundary of which was to begin on the line between Virginia and North Carolina. October 29th, 1751, the "Greenbrier Company" was authorized to locate 100,000 acres on the waters of Greenbrier river.

14. First Settlers on Greenbrier River.—The first white men who reached the upper course of the Greenbrier river, were Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell, who, in the year 1749, came to the mouth of Knap's creek, now in Pocahontas county, and erected a cabin on the bank of Greenbrier river, on what has ever since been known as Marlin's Bottom. Here they were living in 1751, when John Lewis and his son Andrew came west as the surveyors of the Greenbrier Land Company. Sewell afterward moved fifty miles farther west, and fell a victim to savage barbarity. Both of these men have their names preserved in those of two lofty mountains of the State.

15. First Explorers South of the New River.—In the year 1750, Doctor Thomas Walker, of Virginia, with five companions, set out on a journey of exploration in the western wilderness, and, pressing onward, reached the Cumberland mountains, which they so named in honor of the Duke of Cumberland. Then they explored the region about the sources of the Green, Salt, and Kentucky rivers. Then, journeying northward, the explorers crossed the Big Sandy river and traversed the mountains in what is now the southern part of West Virginia, crossing the

upper courses of the Guyandotte and Twelve Pole rivers; and June 28th, 1750, the party reached New river, opposite the mouth of the Greenbrier. They



JUNCTION OF THE GREENBRIER AND NEW RIVERS.

crossed the former and continued up the latter on their return home. Thus, Dr. Thomas Walker, with five companions, two of whom were Ambrose Powell and Colby Chew, were the first white men in that part of